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STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

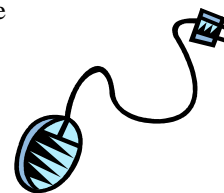
Redesign Update

Release of S&PF Annual Report

This year's edition of the Redesign Report Card has a new name and a new perspective. The *State and Private Forestry Annual Report* now provides a broader picture of the many accomplishments and ongoing work accomplished by state forestry agencies, the USDA Forest Service and their many partners across the spectrum of S&PF. The report provides information on how states approached the upcoming Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies, as well as a look at many of the projects and programs that accomplish the three national forestry priorities (Conserve, Protect, Enhance). The electronic version is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml> and <http://www.stateforesters.org/>.

New Website for FY 2009 Redesign Projects

The Forest Service recently launched a new website allowing agency personnel and partners to retrieve information on State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign projects funded through the FY 2009 competitive allocation process. Individuals can access this public website by way of the Redesign homepage located at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml>. Simply navigate to the *Latest News* and click on the link titled, *New Website – Redesign Projects Funded in FY 2009*. Project reports can be searched by state, or key words and phrases. Thanks and appreciation go to the many Forest Service and state forestry partners that completed the data entry necessary to make this site possible.



S & PF Core Performance Measures

The State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign effort has resulted in the identification of core performance measures designed to capture the full suite of S&PF accomplishments. Performance measures are essential to demonstrating outcomes and to communicating the results of federal and state investments. New, proposed performance measures were sent to S&PF leadership and state foresters for review, and were also tested against competitive projects underway throughout the nation. The Redesign Implementation Council (RIC) concluded that there should be one core set of measures that relate to the National Themes and Objectives of Redesign to tell the story of all S&PF work at a national level. Other measures might still be necessary for program management at local levels and/or required by statute or policy. Not all measures will be implemented immediately. Reporting for the new measures will not begin until additional work is completed, with the next phase of work beginning soon. Please see 'Performance Measures' under 'Updated Info' at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/>

FY 2011 Competitive Resource Allocation National Guidance

The FY 2011 Competitive Resource Allocation National Guidance has been released. As last year, in FY 2011, fifteen percent of the "net available" S&PF allocation will be designated for the Competitive Resource Allocation process. Updates to this year's guidance includes a more flexible timeline to allow for regional differences, information on (but no new requirements this year) performance measures, and integration of Statewide Assessments and Strategies. It is anticipated that each National Association of State Foresters (NASF) geographic region (NE, S, W) will design their competitive process to address geographically significant issues and landscapes, as well as the National Themes/Priorities identified in the Farm Bill, and direction provided at the national level. There is also a new Q&A document addressing the eligible criteria for activities. Please see "Competitive Allocation" at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml>.



Integrating State Strategies with Non-Competitive Grant Narratives

Work was recently completed on behalf of the Redesign Implementation Council (RIC) to address how State Assessments and Strategies will be integrated with the grant narratives for S&PF non-competitive funds. Two calls/web meetings were held in March to gather input from state and Forest Service representatives. Over 200 people participated.

During their March meeting, the RIC decided to develop and phase-in a grant narrative template by FY 2012.

In **Phase 1, for FY 2011 process**, the RIC is providing broad, yet flexible guidance for referencing the state strategy and linking to the national priorities and objectives in the non-competitive grant narratives. RIC will work towards developing two to three examples or templates that states may choose to use in FY 2011 in place of their existing formats. Toward this end, Forest Service (FS) staff will collect current grant narrative templates and example grant narratives from the FS Regions, Northeastern Area, and the International Institute for Tropical Forestry. In consultation with states, the FS will identify key components from existing templates and examples to develop a few templates for optional use in FY 2011.

States are encouraged to use either one of the templates developed by RIC or their existing grant narrative formats for FY 2011. Narratives should reference the State Strategy in one or more ways:

- An introduction in the narrative describing how the annual work overall relates to the State Assessment and Strategy, e.g. a half page overview.
- Throughout the grant narrative, reference the State Strategy (by State Strategy section, page, or strategy number) to relate the importance of the proposed activities.
- Either way, narratives should clearly indicate which activities will meet multiple State Strategy objectives.

Phase 2 will be **for FY 2012 funds**. The RIC will seek input from state and federal staffs on the templates piloted in FY 2011, and further refine them to create flexible templates, potentially for all states to use for FY 2012 grant narratives. The hope is that as grant narratives and the assessments and strategies become more intertwined, the templates will evolve to best serve the needs of both grantee and grantor. States will have the option to modify the templates if they do not meet their needs.



Submitting Statewide Forest Resource Assessments & Strategies

Statewide Assessments of Forest Resource Conditions and Statewide Forest Resource Strategies (as defined by the 2008 Farm Bill) are due to the appropriate Forest Service Regional Office or the Northeastern Area no later than June 18, 2010. After Regional Foresters and the Northeastern Area Director certify that assessments and strategies comply with requirements of the Farm Bill, documents should be forwarded to the State and Private Forestry Deputy Chief by July 30, 2010. The Deputy Chief will approve the assessments and strategies on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Forest Legacy Assessments of Need and Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies

States that want to either maintain participation in, or enter into the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), must address the Assessment of Needs (AONs) components of FLP Guidelines. This can be accomplished through two general approaches—by either incorporating by reference an approved AON in their assessment and strategy, or by incorporating the required AON components within the assessment and strategy. It should be noted that for states that are revising their AONs as part of their assessments and strategies, AON elements will be evaluated outside the approval process for assessments/strategies regarding compliance with Forest Legacy Program requirements.



Recent RIC Meeting

The Redesign Implementation Council was convened on May 3, 2010 at the Hall of States in Washington, D.C. The RIC has had a very productive year thus far with decisions and directions developed on many critical components of redesign, such as national guidance, performance measures and state assessments. The focus of this meeting was on the future with topics such as the governance of the RIC, the use of “Redesign” language, and general communications efforts and messaging around State & Private Forestry and the Statewide Assessments and Resource Strategies.

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